

REMARKS

On page 2 of the final Action, claims 11-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, wherein it was held that "The applicant claims the top end of the visor being inside the hat body without extending inwardly."

What was recited in claim 11 in this portion was "a top end located inside the hat body without a portion extending inwardly therefrom."

In view of the Examiner's rejection, this portion has been change to "a top end located inside the hat body without a portion extending inwardly from the top end." Namely, "therefrom" is changed to "from the top end" as meant in the original recitation. Thus, this section means that the top end is located inside the hat body, and that the top end does not have a portion further extending inwardly from the top end.

The amendment does not change the subject of the disclosure and does not introduce new issue. Also, it is believed that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph is obviated.

On pages 9-11 of the final Action, claims 11-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tanizawa in view of Grilliot et al.

In view of the rejection, claim 13 has been amended in independent form, and claims 16-18 have been canceled.

A safety hat of claim 11 comprises a hat body, and a visor portion attached to the hat body. The visor portion includes a front end outside the hat body, a top end located inside the hat body without a portion extending inwardly from the top end, and an upper surface smoothly curved upwardly from the front end toward the top end.

In the invention, therefore, the top end is located inside the hat body, and the top end does not have a

portion further extending inwardly from the top end. Thus, the visor portion continuously smoothly extends inwardly into the hat body with a space relative to the lower end of the front eave portion to form a front air hole between the lower end of the front eave portion and the visor portion, as clearly shown in Fig. 2.

In Tanizawa, a helmet comprises a main portion 1 with a visor h and a top area, and a cover portion 2 covering the top area of the main portion 1. The main portion 1 includes openings 1b spaced by stems 1c at a front side. The cover portion 2 includes openings 2b with comb portions 2a engaging the engaging holes 1a of the main portion 1. The front end of the cover portion 2 partly covers the openings 1b of the main portion.

In Tanizawa, therefore, the visor h extends continuously to the top portion through the stems 1c, and the cover portion 2 simply covers the top area.

In the invention, the visor portion includes the top end located inside the hat body without a portion extending inwardly from the top portion. Nothing extends from the top end of the visor portion. In Tanizawa, the main portion 1 includes the visor h and top area integrally formed together through the comb portions. The visor h does not have the top end of the invention, and extends continuously to the inside of the helmet as the top portion.

In the invention, the top end of the visor portion is disposed laterally away from the lower end of the front eave portion inside the hat body, and located vertically above the lower end of the front eave portion so that the visor portion continuously smoothly extends inwardly into the hat body with a space relative to the lower end of the front eave portion to form a front air hole between the lower end of the front eave portion and the visor portion. In Tanizawa, the openings 1b are formed inside the visor h, but the openings 1b are not defined between the visor portion

and the lower end of the front eave portion.

The features of the invention are not disclosed in Tanizawa.

It was held in the final Action that "Tanizawa does not teach the upper surface of the visor (just below 1c) being curved. Grilliot teaches a helmet with a vent 40 and a curved inner surface at 4."

In Grilliot et al., a hood 10 includes a helmet 30, and a head band 36 attached to the helmet 30 through straps 24. When the head band 36 is worn by a user to hold the helmet 30 on the user, a space is formed with respect to the helmet.


The inner side of the helmet 30 has a surface continuously extending from a visor portion to the inner side of the helmet. However, the visor portion does not continuously smoothly extend inwardly into the hat body with a space relative to the lower end of the front eave portion to form a front air hole between the lower end of the front eave portion and the visor portion, as defined in claim 11 of the invention.

Claim 13 has the features as defined in claim 11, and includes the recitation wherein one air hole is defined between the lower end of the front eave portion and the upper surface of the visor portion and between the sides. Claims 13 is not obvious from Tanizawa and Grilliot et al.

As explained above, even if Tanizawa and Grilliot et al. are combined, claims pending in the application are not obvious.

Reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

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